

Dear Governor Lamont and Connecticut Legislators,

My name is Marianne Gustafson and I live in Wilton, Connecticut, a Connecticut resident for over two decades. I am opposed to any bill or budget, including HB 7150, that would redirect teacher pension costs to towns.

In fact, I believe these contracts must be renegotiated because taxpayers' interests were neither represented nor protected during these negotiations and acceptances.

Specifically, our town had neither authority nor standing in the negotiations or in acceptance of the terms in those pension contracts.

Shifting these costs now, years later, with additional costs to towns who had no standing to determine the terms or their ability to pay these costs and then penalizing towns who had to pay more to our teachers are affronts to our rights and to appropriate representation.

Past contracts have created egregious payouts and benefits to some people and sectors of the state, distorting the balance between taxpayers and taxes paid and the benefactors of these outlandish contracts— these teacher pension contracts may too. For example, a retired UConn business professor is now making about \$280,000/year in retirement. These types of contracts are usurious to taxpayers who had no representation at the table.

There have been issues regarding contract negotiations and representation in this state. It took far too many years for Connecticut to create an Office of Ethics (2005) to oversee those statutes. For many years, the legislature avoided putting teeth in Ethics statutes, wanting to exempt themselves from those statutes.

[http://www.ct.gov/ethics/lib/ethics/guides/2014/public\\_officials\\_and\\_state\\_employees\\_guide\\_rev-jan2014.pdf](http://www.ct.gov/ethics/lib/ethics/guides/2014/public_officials_and_state_employees_guide_rev-jan2014.pdf)

No representation during the process or in the determination of contract details but redirecting onerous burdens back to individual towns with penalties based upon excessive concessions or payments to certain voting blocks and employees - that is anathema to our foundational beliefs.

I ask that you withdraw from any budget or bill any process that transfers obligations to municipalities who had no standing or involvement in determining and agreeing to those obligations and you act to renegotiate these excessive contract obligations.

Marianne Gustafson

Wilton, CT